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NEW EVIDENCE THAT COOK DID NOT REACH THE POLE

In the course of the Crocker Land Expedition, organized under the joint auspices of the American Museum of Natural History, the American Geographical Society, and the University of Illinois, whose recent return was referred to in these pages (October, 1917, *Review*, pp. 320-321), the services were secured of two Eskimos, E-took-a-shoo and Ah-pellah, who were with Dr. Frederick A. Cook on his expedition of 1907-09 and accompanied him on his alleged journey to the North Pole. Mr. Donald B. MacMillan, the leader of the expedition, took the opportunity to question them in detail regarding Dr. Cook's trip. The reliability of their report rests upon the remarkable development of the sense of location which is a characteristic of their race. This finds expression in their ability to reproduce with great fidelity the details of a journey and in their skill in reading and constructing maps. Numerous examples of Eskimo maps are known, notably those of Cumberland Sound and Frobisher Bay in the southeastern part of Baffin Island (Boas' "The Central Eskimo," *Sixth Annual Rept. Bur. of Amer. Ethnol. for 1884-85*) and of the central part of the eastern coast of Greenland (Holm's "East Greenland Expedition of 1883-85," *Meddelelser om Grönland*, Vols. 9-10). This report to Mr. MacMillan on Dr. Cook's journey is therefore not in the nature of loose testimony but a real contribution to the subject. The detailed evidence is embodied in a letter from Mr. MacMillan to the editor of the *Geographical Review*. The letter follows:

Boston, Mass., December 31, 1917.

To the Editor of the Geographical Review:

Dr. Cook with a single white companion, by the name of Francke, the cook of the fishing schooner *John R. Bradley*, was landed at Annoatok, some fifteen miles north of Etah, late in August, 1907. There were living here at this time about six families of the so-called Smith Sound tribe of Eskimos. This number was supplemented later by the arrival of several families from the south.

"Shortly after the sun returned" in February, the expedition left Annoatok, aiming west across Smith Sound for the head of Flagler Bay. Ascending the river valley Dr. Cook crossed over the heights of Ellesmere Island into Bay Fiord and on up Eureka Sound to the northern end of Axel Heiberg Island but did not reach Cape Thomas Hubbard, which is some five miles west, this accounting for his not finding Peary's cairn and record. Game was plentiful throughout the trip; the dogs and the men were well fed.

At this point a cache of food and a few small articles were left. Four Eskimos returned to Etah. Four Eskimos accompanied Dr. Cook during the first day's march on the Polar Sea, a march of about twelve miles. Upon the completion of the snow home, two Eskimos returned to land, leaving E-took-a-shoo and Ah-pellah ["E-tuk-i-shook" and "Ah-we-lah" in Dr. Cook's book] alone with Dr. Cook.

Dr. Cook and his two Eskimo boys did not proceed beyond this point, which is about 500 miles from the Pole. A flag was raised over the snow house and a picture taken.

For instruments Dr. Cook had with him a common watch, a compass, and a full sextant. The sledges were loaded with food.

After sleeping at this camp two nights, the party returned to the cache on the shores of Axel Heiberg Island, took everything from the cache, and proceeded south, following its western shore. Two low islands were discovered in about latitude 79°, very low and about five miles from land. The party crossed to the eastern shore of Amund Ringnes Island, where camp was made and one or two caribou were killed. Returning, they made camp a little east of Cape Southwest of Axel Heiberg Island. They now journeyed southeast to the shores of North Lincoln [southern part of Ellesmere Island], crossing the land into Gaase Fiord. Upon reaching the entrance they turned west, then north into the narrow channel known as Hell Gate. Here the small canvas boat was launched, one of the two sledges placed on board, and all dogs abandoned. The boat proceeded south, then east, following the southern shore of Jones Sound to Baffin Bay. Encountering heavy ice which barred their progress south, they returned west and landed at Cape Sparbo on the northern shore of North Devon. Here an old Eskimo igloo was prepared and furnished for the winter to come. Game was plentiful, and the igloo, well stocked with meat, was warm and comfortable.

Early in the spring of 1909 these three men packed their sledge and began their long walk back to Etah, the two Eskimo boys generally pulling the sledge and Dr. Cook pushing on the upstanders.

Between Cobourg Island and North Lincoln two uncharted islands were discovered. On the retreat northward the party followed a course well away from land, because of the depth of snow prevalent here in the spring of the year. Food gave out. All became very tired and very hungry. Finally a bear was secured, enabling the men to reach Cape Sabine. Here a seal was found in cache, placed there one year before by Panik-pa, the father of E-took-a-shoo. With renewed strength, thus acquired, the party succeeded in crossing Smith Sound to the headquarters of Dr. Cook at Annoatok. Following a few days' rest Dr. Cook proceeded south by dog team to Upernivik.

Many of the photographs in Dr. Cook's "My Attainment of the Pole," New York, 1911, are recognized by both E-took-a-shoo and Ah-pellah. The photographs facing page 244 marked "Bradley Land Discovered," etc., were taken off the western shore of Axel Heiberg Island, about 550 miles from the Pole.

Facing page 282: Photo "Mending Near the Pole" was taken on west side of Axel Heiberg Island.

Facing page 286: "At the Pole—'We were the only pulsating creatures in a dead world of ice.' " Photos taken in spring of 1909 near Cape Faraday on east coast of Ellesmere Island about 780 miles from the Pole. The musk-ox boots worn by Ah-pellah were made in the igloo at Cape Sparbo in Jones Sound, following Cook's return from the north.

Facing page 298: "First Camp at the Pole, April 21, 1908." Photo taken in spring of 1909 a little south of Cape Faraday on the eastern shores of Ellesmere Island.

Facing page 310: "With eager eyes we searched the dusky plains of crystal, but there was no land, no life, to relieve the purple run of death." Photo taken near Cape Faraday. Ah-pellah is wearing a musk-ox coat made at Cape Sparbo in Jones Sound.

Facing page 332: "Back to Land and Life." Taken near Cape Southwest, southern coast of Axel Heiberg Island.

Facing page 336: "Saved from starvation, the result of one of our last cartridges." Taken near Cape Svarten on the north shore of North Devon. The boys had many cartridges at this time. They had four, in fact, when they reached Etah.

Very truly yours,

DONALD B. MACMILLAN
Leader, Crocker Land Expedition